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have been dealt with separately by numerous writers on early Texas history, especially Garrison, Clark, Bolton, and their students; these incidents have been amplified in the present work, and their mutual relations clarified and knit into a consecutive whole. The French side of the rivalry is not touched save in the most general outline.

Without conscious emphasis, but with understanding, the monograph lays bare the prostration of the Spanish court under the last Hapsburg, and the irresolution and fear which were the keynotes of its colonial policy until these were superseded by subservience to the Bourbon combination. The study of colonial institutions at work, while occasionally heavy with the author's consciousness of abundant documentation, is as clear as it is essential to adequate understanding of the institutions. The narrative is preliminary to a promised account of Spanish-French relations during the period of their futile alliance for the purpose of checking the English.

The book has a good index; the editing is careful and consistent. The "List of printed works cited" is necessarily brief, but the "List of manuscripts" is correspondingly long. Several tracings of Spanish maps hitherto unpublished appear. A general map of the gulf and frontier areas should have been compiled and included. Minor defects of presentation and form do not affect the permanent value of the contribution, which is assured a high place among the specialized writings on our colonial history.

H. I. PRIESTLEY

*Back from hell.* By Samuel Cranston Benson. (Chicago: A. C. McClurg and company, 1918. 250 p. \$1.30)

Mr. Benson was a pacifist pastor in Patton, Pennsylvania, who conceived the somewhat curious design of going to Belgium to serve humanity, although the issues of the great war and the respective merits of the German, Belgian, French, and other causes were alike a matter of indifference to him. In forty-three chapters and 250 pages he relates his experiences in war-ridden Europe, the net result of which was to transform him from a pacifist of the extreme type into an ardent upholder of the virtue of helping the French put the fear of God into the Germans. The book is cheaply printed by the publishers, and equipped with a paper jacket as lurid as its title. Mr. Benson's style is distinctly journalistic, his observations and reflections are commonplace. If it be literature at all, it is literature of a distinctly ephemeral type.